

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 are pending. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. New claims 8-10 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garback in view of Taylor et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 relates to a schedule management system. The system is used to retrieve records relating to business trips from schedule information that includes both business and non-business trip records. For example, in Fig. 3(a), the value 0 is used to indicate that the schedule information relates to a non-business trip, whereas the values 1 and 2 are used to indicate that the schedule information relates to business trips (see also Fig. 2). The classification information 207 in Fig. 2 is stored after a value corresponding to the location 206 has been converted using such a table as illustrated in Fig. 3(a). The present management system also enables retrieval of business trips for which travel expenses have not been reimbursed. Accordingly, the claimed embodiment uses two parameters, i.e., classification and status data, for determining/retrieving those schedule information entries that relate to business trips while disregarding those entries that are non-business trips and then for determining whether or not reimbursement is required for a given business trip.

Garback does not disclose or suggest the above features. The Examiner indicated that Garback discloses "an external storage apparatus for storing schedule information having classification and status data inputted from said inputting device of said schedule inputting terminal..." at col. 4:63-67 and col. 3:10-15 of Garback. Applicants note that these sections merely disclose inputting of records and do not disclose the concept of "classification and status data."

The Examiner also indicated that "...travel expense reimbursement information indicating whether or not travel expense has been reimbursed" is disclosed at col. 5:40-60 and col. 6:61 to col. 7:8. These sections disclose booking a flight that is lower than the original flight booking and do not disclose the reimbursement information that indicates whether or not the travel expense has been reimbursed. Moreover, Garback does not disclose or suggest the feature

of determining whether or not a given item of said schedule information relates to business trip, so that a user may search for the schedule information that only relates to a business trip.

Taylor discloses a travel expense reimbursement method. It does not disclose the concept of the classification and status data, in the manner recited. The status field in Fig. 19 relates to the payment information. It cannot be used to determine whether or not a given entry relates to a business trip. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-3 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for this reason.

Claim 4 recites, "a searching means for searching business trip schedule information from the external storage apparatus based on said status and classification data, so that said non-business trip schedule information is not searched." The cited references above do not disclose or suggest these features. Claim 4 is allowable at least for this reason. Claim 5 depends from claim 4 and is allowable at least for this reason.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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